



SELLS



Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing

March 2003

The SELLS Quarterly Newsletter

Co-Chair Corner

The 2003 SELLS Executive Committee has been selected. Congratulations to all!

Rich Schassburger - Co Chair

Dawn Starrett - Co-Chair

Theresa Beall - continuing

Ward Best - continuing

John Bickford - returning

Meredith Brown - continuing

Howard Gordon - new

Mary McCune - returning

Jenny Roddy - new

Ray Blowitski has joined SELLS as the EH Rep. SELLS thanks outgoing Executive Committee members Kathie Hensley, Joe Marek, and Tom Rotella for their service. We could not have accomplished all that we did without you!

Resources

Check out the SELLS 2002 Fall Workshop proceedings at the following web site: <http://www.eh.doe.gov/11/proceedings/proceedings1002/proceedings1002.html>

The Department of Energy Office of Environment, Safety, and Health Performance Assessment and Analysis web site has a wealth of information in its Operating Experience Summaries and Special Reports at: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/paa>

Lessons Learned Focus

An employee at LLNL was injured recently when a table saw guard, called an anti-kickback splitter (kickback), came loose and was flung from the saw. After ripping a piece of lumber, the employee began to remove the board that inadvertently contacted the anti-kickback splitter fingers. The kickback was knocked off its mounting onto the saw blade, turning at 6,000 RPM. Three teeth were knocked loose from the rotating saw blade, which ejected the kickback and loosened teeth.

Personnel had substituted wing nuts for regular nuts to secure the kickback to the table. The table saw had a slight vibration that may have loosened the wing nut securing the kickback to the mounting device. Once the wing nut was loose, the kickback slipped out of the mounting device onto the saw blade.

The kickback struck the employee in the chest, and blade fragments struck his neck. Fortunately, the employee's injuries were minor and required only first aid.



Did you know?

A number of suspect/counterfeit components in ratchet tie-down assemblies have been reported in the Occurrence Reporting and Processing System across the DOE Complex over the past year. Recently suspect/ counterfeit components in ratchet tie-down assemblies were detected by a Bechtel Hanford Quality Assurance inspector who noticed that two of five ratchet tie-down assemblies on a shipment of burial boxes contained suspect/counterfeit pivot bolts.

The March 10, 2003, Operating Experience Summary profiles lessons learned from the suspect/counterfeit pivot bolt in the ratchet tie-down assemblies.



Bolt head showing markings.

Read more about the suspect/counterfeit pivot bolts in the ratchet tie-down assemblies at: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/paa/oesummary/oesummary2003/oe2003-05.pdf>

Want to share a lessons learned? Contact your organization's Lessons Learned Point of Contact.

Mentoring

Mentoring of alerts submitted to the DOE SELLS List Server has begun. Each month, a team of mentors will select two lessons learned to review and provide constructive criticism. The lessons learned reviewed will be selected from those lessons learned the originators have agreed to have reviewed.

The team will compile their comments into a single note and provide it to the Point of Contact listed on the alert. The Point of Contact will have the option of sharing the comments with the rest of SELLS or using them for their own improvement efforts.

Two teams of SELLS members have volunteered. Team members are John Bickford, Meredith Brown, Howard Gordon, Jenny Roddy, and Jeanne Wightman. Anyone who wants feedback from the mentoring committee on their lessons learned, before or after posting, is welcome to contact one of the team members via the SELLS Contacts list.

Upcoming Events

April 8 - 10, 2003
SELLS Spring 2003 Workshop in
Denver, CO

April 16 - 17, 2003
EFCOG PAAA Working Group in
Las Vegas, NV

April 28 - May 1, 2003
DOE/Contractor Fire Safety
Workshop in Amarillo, TX

SELLS Member Profile



Howard J. Gordon is a Lead ES&H Engineer for the BNFL Inc. Corporate ES&H Department in Englewood, Colorado. A geologist by education and avocation, Howard worked in the petroleum industry for 11 years prior to his current position. Howard is one of the newest dynamic additions to the SELLS Executive Committee and has been an enthusiastic supporter of SELLS for a number of years.

Howard has recently joined the mentoring team to assist those SELLS members who want to improve the quality of their lessons learned. Howard has worked within BNFL Inc. (our host at the upcoming spring meeting) for the last several months to ensure the success of the next SELLS meeting and will be guiding the geological tour of the Denver area. We welcome your creative input Howard!

Keep Us Informed

Let us know about anything new happening with lessons learned at your site! If you have any ideas to add to this newsletter, contact Dawn via e-mail at:

starred@nv.doe.gov

Quote

"We ought not to look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dear-bought experience."

- George Washington

Sounds Like a Lessons Learned

"Everyone in the industry must look at that history to see what worked and what didn't, so they don't make the same mistakes," says Roderick Munro in his article Roadblocks to Quality in the February 2003 issue of Quality Progress.

Interesting New Lessons

The DOE Annual Report, DOE/EH-0660 on Occupational Exposure is available at <http://rems.eh.doe.gov>.

Section 4 (page 60) contains ALARA success stories from the DOE sites. Fluor Hanford has articles on the WRAP Ventilation Collar, CH2MHill on the Pit Viper, and BHI on ALARA Practices used at the Crib at 100N. Several of the facilities/projects have had recent success stories that contain valuable lessons learned.

Recurring Theme

Inadequate Lock Out/Tag Out of electrical applications is recurring at some sites.

